

Funding Resources and Recreation Information Guide 2023



This guide was developed by York Region Early Intervention Services to give parents/caregivers and service providers information about funding opportunities that may be available to families.

The guide includes sources of funding from various levels of government, charitable organizations, wish foundations, recreation funding sources and other financial resources.

The contact information is listed for each agency and/or source that provides the funding, with a description of the purpose of the funds and summary of the eligibility criteria.

Early Intervention Services does not endorse or support any specific program or service mentioned in this booklet.

Resources can change quickly. The information in this booklet may not show recent changes or updates made by any particular agency or organization. You will need to contact each organization directly to obtain current details.

Provincial Government Programs

Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)

Website: ontario.ca/page/assistance-children-severe-disabilities-program

Description

- The Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Program helps parents with some extra costs of caring for a child who has a severe disability. Parents can get help with costs related to:
- Travel to doctors and hospitals
- Special shoes and clothes
- Parent relief
- Wheelchair repairs
- Assistive devices
- Hearing aids and hearing aids batteries
- Prescription drugs
- Dental care
- Eyeglasses

Eligibility

A parent or legal guardian whose child:

- Is under 18 years of age
- Lives at home
- And has a severe disability

NOTE:

Eligibility is dependent on family income

Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

Website: ontario.ca/page/assistive-devices-program

Description

- Prostheses
- Wheelchairs/mobility aids and specialized seating systems
- enteral feeding supplies
- Monitors and test strips for insulin-dependent diabetics
- Hearing aids
- Insulin pumps and supplies for children
- Respiratory equipment
- Orthoses
- Visual and communication aids
- Oxygen and oxygen delivery equipment, such as cylinders, liquid systems, and related supplies, such as masks and tubing

NOTE:

- ADP covers 75% of the cost for equipment and supplies
- ADP does not consider your income

Eligibility

- Any Ontario resident who has a valid Ontario Health card issued in their name and has a physical disability of six months or longer
- Equipment cannot be required exclusively for sports, work, or school
- There are specific eligibility criteria which apply to each device category
- Initial access is often through a medical specialist or general practitioner who provides a diagnosis
- In most device categories, an authorizer assesses the specific need of the person and prescribes appropriate equipment or supplies

Special Services at Home (SSAH)

Website: children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/specialservices.aspx

Description

- The program helps families pay for special services in or outside the family home if the child is not receiving support from a residential program
- Family can hire a mediator to help the child learn new skills and abilities, such as improving their communication skills and becoming more independent
- Provide respite support to the family- families can get money to pay for services that will give them a break, or respite, from the day-to-day care of their child

Eligibility

Families can apply for this support if their children have a developmental or physical disability

- Live in Ontario
- Need more support than most families can provide
- Live at home with their family

OR

- If they are not living at home with their family and not being helped by other residential services

Enhanced Respite for Medically Fragile and/or Technology Dependent Children

Website: ontario.ca/page/family-support-and-respite-children-and-youth-special-needs#section-2

Description

- Provides families of medically fragile and/or technology-dependent children and youth with funding to purchase respite care
- Home & Community Care Support Services agency will submit this application for eligible families

Eligibility

- Under 18 years of age
- Live at home
- Need intensive care and constant monitoring on a 24-hour basis
- Medically fragile and/or technology dependent, meeting one of the following criteria:

relies on medical and technological equipment, such as mechanical ventilators, apnea monitors, renal dialysis, urinary catheters, colostomy bags, tracheotomy tube care, suctioning, oxygen support or tube feeding

- Is administered drugs intravenously

Trillium Drug Program-Ontario Drug Benefit

Website: ontario.ca/page/get-help-high-prescription-drug-costs

Description

- The Trillium Drug Program covers the cost of about 5,000 prescription drugs that are currently available through the [Ontario Drug Benefit program](#), and about 1,000 drug products upon meeting specified criteria through the Exceptional Access Program
- The Trillium Drug Program helps Ontarians pay for their high prescription-drug costs
- Nutrition products (formula) may be reimbursed when the cost is exceptional relative to the cost of regular formula

Eligibility

- Live in Ontario
- Have a valid Ontario health card number
- **Do not** already qualify for the [Ontario Drug Benefit program](#) (for example, you are not enrolled in a program such as Ontario Works)
- **Do not** have an insurance plan that pays for 100% of your drugs
- spend about 4% or more of your after-tax household income on prescription-drug costs
- The formula must be prescribed by the child's doctor and be the sole source of nutrition as the result of one of the following: disorders resulting in esophageal dysfunction, dysphagia, maldigestion, malabsorption or those requiring a chemically defined diet
- A "Prescriber" (e.g., doctor) and Pharmacist must complete and sign the application

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Website: ontario.ca/page/ontario-disability-support-program

Description

- ODSP provides financial support to adults with a substantial physical or mental disability to help with the costs of basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, shelter)
- Assists eligible families with housing, dental care fees, drug card for prescribed medication, prescribed equipment

- Amount of funding you receive depends on your financial situation

Eligibility

- Live in Ontario
- 18 years of age or older
- Must have a substantial physical or mental disability that is expected to last more than a year and that interferes with your ability to care for yourself
- The impairment, its duration and restrictions must be verified by an approved health care professional

Ontario Cleft Lip and Palate/Craniofacial Dental Program

Website: health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/child/cleft.aspx

Description

- This program covers up to 75% of the pre-approved dental specialist treatment costs not covered by private dental insurance.
- Patients are entitled to funding for only one treatment

Eligibility

- Child must be 17 years of age or younger
- Have a valid OHIP number
- Have a diagnosis of cleft lip and/or palate, craniofacial anomaly, or any other severe dental dysfunction
- Have sufficient residual craniofacial growth necessary to achieve the maximum potential benefit from a single course of treatment
- To obtain financial assistance, an individual must have a screening assessment done first at a designated clinic (Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab and the Hospital for Sick Children)
- The Dental Director and Assessment team at the clinic will determine eligibility

Ontario Autism Program (OAP)

Website: accessoap.ca

Description

- The Ontario Autism Program (OAP) offers support to families of children and youth on the autism spectrum. Children and youth who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by a qualified professional are eligible for the program. Children receive services and supports until the age of 18
- Programs offered include Foundational Family Services, Caregiver Mediated Early Years Program, Entry to School Program, Core Clinical Services, Urgent Response Services

Eligibility

- Be under age 18
- Currently live in Ontario
- Have a written diagnosis of Autism from a qualified professional

Federal Government Programs

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

Website: canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/registered-disability-savings-plan-rdsp.html

Description

- A registered disability savings plan (RDSP) is a savings plan intended to help parents and others save for the long-term financial security of a person who is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit

Eligibility

You can designate an individual as beneficiary if the individual

- Is eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC)
- Has a valid social insurance number (SIN)
- Is a resident of Canada when the plan is entered into

- Is under the age of 60

Interim Federal Health Program

Website: canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-within-canada/health-care/interim-federal-health-program/coverage-summary.html

Description

- The Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) covers certain health-care benefits for specific groups of people until they become eligible for provincial or territorial health insurance

Eligibility

In Canada, the IFHP provides limited, temporary coverage of health-care benefits to people in the following groups who aren't eligible for provincial or territorial health insurance

- Protected persons, including resettled refugees
- Refugee claimants
- Certain other groups

Canada Caregiver Amount

Website: canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/caregiving.html

Description

- EI caregiving benefits provide financial assistance while you're away from work to care for or support a critically ill or injured person or someone needing end-of-life care. You could receive 55% of your earnings, up to a maximum of \$650 a week
- 3 types of caregiving benefits: Family caregiver benefit for children (up to 35 weeks), Family caregiver adult (up to 15 weeks), Compassionate care benefits (up to 26 weeks)

Eligibility

- For Family caregiver benefit for children the child must under 18 years of age, with impairment in physical or mental functions
- The impairment must be prolonged and indefinite

- The child must be dependent on you for assistance in attending to personal needs and care when compared to children of the same age

Tax Credits

Child Disability Benefit (CDB)

Website: canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/child-disability-benefit.html

Description

- The Child Disability Benefit (CDB) is a tax-free benefit for families who care for a child under age 18 who is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

Eligibility

- the child must have a **severe and prolonged** impairment in physical or mental functions. Impairment is prolonged if it has lasted, or is expected to last, for a continuous period of at least 12 months
- **You must be eligible for the Canada Child Benefit (CCB)**
- **Your child must be eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)**
- A medical practitioner must complete and certify that the child has a severe and prolonged impairment and must describe its effects on Form T2201, the CRA will advise you if the child is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) and the CDB supplement

NOTE:

- If you are already receiving the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for your child who is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) you **do not need to apply** for the Child Disability Benefit (CDB), you will receive it automatically

Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

Website: canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit.html

Description

- The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is a non-refundable tax credit that helps persons with disabilities, or their supporting persons reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay.

An individual may claim the disability amount once they are eligible for the DTC. This amount includes a supplement for persons under the age of 18 years old

- The purpose of the DTC is to provide for greater tax equity by allowing some relief for disability costs, since these are unavoidable additional expenses that other taxpayers don't have to face
- Being eligible for the DTC can open the door to other federal, provincial, and municipal programs such as the Registered Disability Savings Plan, the Working Income Tax Benefit and the Child Disability Benefit

Eligibility

You are eligible for the DTC only if Form T2201 (Disability Tax Credit Certificate) is approved. A medical practitioner must complete and certify that you have a severe and prolonged impairment and must describe its effects

- There is a questionnaire online to find out if the person with the disability may be eligible
- See website for examples of impairments to show the basic differences between impairments that qualify for the DTC and those that do not

Ontario Child Benefit (OCB)

Website: children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/english/financialhelp/ocb/index.aspx

Description

- The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) provides direct financial support to low to moderate income families-whether they are working or not

Eligibility

- Your actual monthly payments are determined by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). They are based on your adjusted family net income on your annual income tax return

Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

Website: canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview.html

Description

- The Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under 18 years of age
- The CCB might include the Child Disability Benefit and any related provincial and territorial programs

Eligibility

- The CRA uses information about from your income tax and benefit return to calculate how much your CCB payments will be
- To receive the CCB you must file your return every year even if you did not have income during the year

GST/HST Information

Website: cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/gsthst-tpstvh-eng.html

Description

- Some of the Goods and Services used by persons with disabilities are exempt supplies or zero-rated supplies for purposes of the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST). This means that you do not pay GST/HST on these goods and services

Eligibility

Medical and disability-related services

- Health care services
- Home care services
- Care and supervision services
- Home delivered meals
- Recreational programs
- Design services
- Hospital parking for patients and volunteers
- Medical devices and supplies
- Specially equipped motor vehicles

Motor Vehicle Purchase or Modification (GST/HST Rebate)

Website: canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/forms/gst518.html

Description

- This rebate is for the GST/HST one has paid on the purchase of a new or used qualifying motor vehicle or modification (parts and service) to a vehicle

Eligibility

- A “qualifying motor vehicle” has a device which places a wheelchair in the vehicle without having to collapse it
- You must apply for the rebate within 4 years after the day you paid the tax, or the tax became payable

Motor Vehicle Gasoline Rebate

Website: canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/forms/xe8.html

Description

- The Motor Vehicle Rebate allows you to claim a refund on gasoline at the rate of \$0.015 per liter or \$0.0015 per kilometer when transporting an individual with mobility issues
- Gasoline cannot be for personal use unless you are an individual with a mobility impairment that is permanent

Eligibility

- You or your child must have a permanent mobility impairment and cannot use public transportation

Medical Expenses Claim

Website: canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/tax-return/completing-a-tax-return/deductions-credits-expenses/lines-330-331-eligible-medical-expenses-you-claim-on-your-tax-return.html

Description

- This is a tax credit associated with the extraordinary costs directly related to a disability
- Items may be claimed as medical expenses on one’s yearly income tax return
- Medical expenses may include prescribed medications, home renovations, glasses, hearing aids, meals and transportation to appointments, artificial limbs, orthotics, medical supplies/equipment, therapies (e.g., ABA, physiotherapy, osteopathy, occupational therapy, speech therapy), hospital services, etc.

Eligibility

- To claim this tax credit, you must fill out Line 330 and 331 of your Schedule

Recreation and Leisure Funding

Ontario One to One Support Worker Reimbursement Fund (Autism Ontario)

Website: autismontario.com/camp

Description

- Available to Ontario families of children or youth diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder who retain the services of a one-to-one support worker for their child to attend a community summer camp or summer program
- Maximum reimbursements of \$600 per child/youth will be made to subsidize services purchased within the time period listed on website (typically end of June to early September)
- A minimum of 500 families across Ontario are expected to received reimbursements

Eligibility

- Applications are submitted during application period and entered into a random draw
- Application must include evidence of a clear ASD diagnosis from a professional who is qualified to make the diagnosis
- Applications are accepted for children up to their 18th birthday

Children's Respite Flexible Funding-Direct Respite Funding (Kerry's Place)

Website: kerrysplace.org/event/flexiblefunding/

Description:

- The purpose of the Children’s Respite Flexible Fund is to help caregivers get the flexible and individualized support their family needs for them to take intervals of time off from their caregiving duties
- Funds will cover respite worker/mediator for home, camp or group, camp fees, social/recreational groups, specialized classes/lessons (guitar, swimming, karate...)
- There is a limited amount of funding per year to serve many families
- It will be a lottery selection with applications opening January -February

Eligibility:

- Children up to the age of 18 years (after their 18th birthday they no longer qualify)
- Children must have an official diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (proof of diagnosis is required)
- Children must live in York Region, Simcoe County, Durham Region and Haliburton, Kawartha & Pine Ridge (HKPR), Dufferin, Peel and Wellington

Canadian Tire Jump Start

Website: jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/en.html

Description

- Funding is up to \$500 per child to help with registrant fees, equipment, or transportation for a variety of sports and community programs

Eligibility

- Children aged 4 to 18 from families in financial need
- Families must meet financial criteria to qualify. JumpStart recommends following Revenue Canada’s Low-Income Cut-offs (LICOs) which are based on family size, the size of their community and the total family until income before taxes

Kids in Camp

Website: kidsincamp.com

Description

- Kids in Camp is a registered charity established to financially assist families to send their children to an Ontario Camp Association Accredited camp
- Camperships are available for day and overnight camp accredited by the Ontario Camps Association (OCA). Applications are submitted by the Camp Directors of OCA accredited camps
- Will fund 1 session at camp

Eligibility

- Funds are limited and based on need and camp director's recommendations
- Camperships are determined by the Kids in Camp Campership Committee

Positive Leisure Activities for Youth (PLAY) and summer camp recreation subsidies

Website: york.ca/RecreationSubsidies

Description

- **Positive Leisure Activities for Youth (PLAY):** Children ages 4-18 years

Eligibility (must meet at least one of the following criteria)

- Live in social housing and pay rent based on their income
- Receive Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program or Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities
- Receive Child Care Fee Assistance and earn income that is within low-income guidelines for York Region

Access 2 Entertainment Card

Website: access2card.ca

Description

- The Access2Card is for people of all ages & types of permanent disabilities who require the assistance of a support person to attend entertainment, cultural & recreational venues across Canada

Eligibility

- All ages
- Permanent disability

Alternate Funding Sources and Charitable Organizations

Ability Gives

Website: abilitygives.org/about

Description:

- **Ability Online** is a supportive online community for individuals & families with disabilities or chronic illnesses where you can speak/chat with other parents that face similar challenges
- A Canadian grant program contributing to life changing experiences in children and youth with disabilities under 18 years old by helping families acquire necessary equipment such as specialized seating/feeding chairs, iPad with communication software for non-verbal children, adapted strollers, lifts & turners, serial casting/orthotics, orthotic shoes, walkers, splints, adapted trikes, etc.
- Membership is free

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be active members of Ability Online (minimum of 3 months) who reside in Canada
- The device/equipment requested will make a significant difference in the life of the child/youth
- Family must be willing to post their child's story & picture on the website
- Only one equipment request per family

Ceridian Cares

Website: ceridiancares.ca

Description:

- The mission of Ceridian Cares is to improve the quality of life in our communities by providing grants to any family in need
- Grants typically range from \$200 to \$4000

Basic Essentials Grant:

- This grant will fund items such as: clothing, footwear, food and basic household needs, prosthetics, eyewear, medical equipment, special therapies, home adjustments for barrier free living, respite services, braille materials, counseling services and physiotherapy

Eligibility:

- The family’s annual household income must be at or below the "Low Income Cut Off before tax" level as defined by Stats Canada

Quality of Life Grant:

- This grant will fund children's programs, camp, art supplies, books, athletic programs

Eligibility:

- The family’s annual household income must be at or below the "median total income in their province or territory" as defined by Stats Canada

Easter Seals Ontario

Website: services.easterseals.org/about/about-our-services

Description

Easter Seals offers several different funding opportunities:

1. **Financial Assistance Program:** picks up where the Ministry of Health and Assistive Devices Program, insurance and other family resources leave off for items such as accessibility aids, bath & toileting aids, communication & writing aids, mobility aids, orthotics
Easter Seals will fund up to \$3000 per individual per year
2. **Incontinence Supplies Grant:** for children & youth 3-18 years of age with a chronic disability (physical or developmental) that results in irreversible incontinence or retention problems lasting longer than 6 months and requiring the use of incontinence supplies
Note Exceptions: children under the age of 3 may be eligible if they have a medical condition which results in the use of catheters or specialized diapers
3. **Top Up Program:** available to eligible clients receiving the Incontinence Supplies Grant and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD). The program “tops up” the annual amount from the Incontinence Grant
4. **Handicare Sling Program:** a free Handicare sling is available for registered clients of Easter Seals Ontario who purchase a new Handicare Ceiling Lift System

Eligibility

- Each program has different eligibility requirements, please review website for details

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital – Family Support Fund

Website: hollandbloorview.ca/our-services/family-workshops-resources/holland-bloorview-family-support-fund

Description

- offers financial support to Holland Bloorview families during a time of transition or stress
- The fund may provide financial compensation for equipment, medication, recreational activities, and respite services during their journey as a Holland Bloorview client

Eligibility

- Be registered client of Holland Bloorview
- A child (under 19) who is receiving clinical care/therapy through an OHIP covered service from Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital within 2 years of the date of application

Note: Funding application submission period April 1 to March 31 annually, or until funds run out

- Up to \$1500 for equipment
- Up to \$500 for medication, recreation
- Up to \$1000 for respite

Children’s Treatment Network (CTN) Family Fund

Website: ctnsy.ca/About-Us/CTN-Family-Fund.aspx

Description

- the CTN Family Fund can help children and families who have short-term, urgent financial needs that cannot be met through existing government financial assistance programs or charitable funds.

Eligibility

- Current client of CTN
- If you are a family and would like to apply for support from the Family Fund, please speak with one of your current service providers.

The War Amps- CHAMP

Website: waramps.ca/ways-we-help/child-amputees

Description

York eDocs # 15271909_EIS_Funding_Resources_Recreation_Information_Guide
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- Offers comprehensive services to child amputees and their families, including financial assistance, regional seminars, and peer support.

Eligibility

- CHAMP serves children in Canada, (under 18 old), who are born missing a limb or have lost a limb due to an accident or medical causes.

Muscular Dystrophy Canada: Community Services Fund Ontario

Website: muscle.ca/services-support/personal-support-program/community-services-fund

Description

- Financial assistance for the purchase of medical equipment or to support such needs as medical travel, respite care, adapted recreation programs, therapies, etc.

Eligibility

- Through this fund chapters can assist persons with **Neuromuscular Disorders** within their community, who are registered with Muscular Dystrophy Canada and a member of a Community Volunteer Chapter

Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy-Assistive Devices Funding Program

Website: ofcp.ca/programs/funding/assisted-devices

Description

- the **Assistive Devices Funding Program (ADFP)** provides financial assistance for equipment for individual members of the OFCP: communication & writing Aids, Orthotic devices, wheelchairs, positioning & ambulation aids, home accessibility aids, bathroom & washroom aids, modifications to electronic aids for daily living

Eligibility

- The Assistive Devices Funding Program is for persons with cerebral palsy of all ages in Ontario, who are Individual members of OFCP

Noah's Clubhouse

Website: noahsclubhouse.org

Description

- Provides funding to families with a child with a diagnosis of cerebral palsy to access private therapies
- Applications are released and accepted once per year in March
- Funding approvals emailed by April 30th

- Funding to be used by December 31st

Eligibility

- Medical documentation confirming diagnosis of cerebral palsy
- Supporting documentation from a practitioner prescribing the therapy
- Must reside in Ontario

Jennifer Ashleigh Foundation

Website: jenash.org/application

Description

- Household costs directly related to child's medical issues
- Respite care
- Medical treatment
- Therapies (once in a 12-month period)

Eligibility

- The need for financial assistance must result from extraordinary costs which are incurred directly as a result of the child's illness or disability
- The child must be diagnosed with a serious illness or permanent disability by a Canadian Medical Practitioner
- The child must be 18 years of age or younger
- The child and parent or guardian must be a Canadian Citizen or Landed Immigrant and be a permanent resident of Ontario. Refugee/Convention refugee status does not qualify
- The family's combined gross household income must be \$65,000 or less. Exception to income will only be considered if there is more than one child with special needs in the family
- The family must have used up all other financial resources available to them including government funds/service agency funds/non-profit organizations
- If you own more than one property or home, you are not eligible for assistance
- **Primary diagnosis's that ARE NOT FUNDED: Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, ADD, Behavioral, Diabetes**

Fretz Fund

Website: visiontherapycanada.com/the-fretz-fund

Description

- Program provides scholarship funds to put towards the cost of vision therapy

Eligibility

- Canadian citizen
- Person has been prescribed a program of vision therapy/neuro-visual training/visual training

Lions of Canada

Website: lionscanada.ca/our-causes

Description

- A **Lion's Club** in or near your community may sponsor a program that helps with eyeglasses, hearing aids, health related services, scholarships or educational needs

Eligibility

- Must contact your local Lion's Club in your community to ask about eligibility

Tetra Society of North America

Website: tetrasociety.org/assistance

Description

- Tetra's assistive device projects tackle barriers to mobility, personal care, and communication. They facilitate education, work, and recreation. They provide increased access within homes (kitchens, bedrooms, and bathrooms), vehicles or places of business
- Tetra's services are offered at no charge, no up-front fees, no callout charges, no hourly rates, and no membership dues however, clients are asked to contribute toward materials and mileage expense. This will be discussed before any costs are incurred and in general are of a modest nature

Eligibility

- To request assistance for yourself or another person please complete the Request for Assistance form online
- You will be asked to provide some background information about yourself, your disability & your requirements – it helps to have searched commercial devices to be sure no alternative is available
- You will not be required to forward medical documents

Note: York Region chapter: 1-877-688-8762

Ontario March of Dimes Home and Vehicle Modification Program

Webpage: marchofdimes.ca/hvmp

Description

- Provides funding for basic home and/or vehicle modifications
- The program is intended to assist permanent Ontario residents with a substantial impairment expected to last one year or more, with their disability management
- Consumers who meet program criteria can apply for grant funding
- Up to \$15,000 lifetime maximum for home modifications
- Up to \$15,000 every ten years for vehicle modifications

Eligibility

- A permanent residence of Ontario
- A person with a substantial impairment caused by bodily injury, birth defect, or illness that is ongoing and /or recurring and is expected to last more than one year
- The impairment impedes mobility and results in substantial restriction in activities of daily living and functioning within the community

Waves of Changes for Autism

Webpage: wavesofchanges.ca

Description

- Provides funding for ABA/IBI, Speech-Language therapy, Occupational Therapy, communication devices, support equipment, camps
- Applications open June-September

Eligibility

- Confirmed ASD diagnosis
- Child must be 13 years of age or younger
- Child must be a Canadian citizen or have permanent residency status in Canada

- **Proof of family residency in Vaughan**
- Copy of paid invoice from vendor of service provided or purchase

Shine Through the Rain

Website: shinethroughtherain.ca/rainydayfund

Description

- Provides support to children, adults and families affected by life threatening illnesses
- Individuals receiving active treatment for their illness may qualify for a maximum of \$1500 per year. Funds may cover grocery gift cards, hospital transportation, parking costs, overdue rent, and past due utility bills
- The Foundation delivers gift bags containing board games, hand-held games, dolls, cards, coloring books, stuffed toys and puzzles to children who are affected by cancer
- The Rainy-Day Fund is a monthly program that works directly with your social worker

Eligibility

- Must be Canadian citizen
- Family member diagnosed with a life-threatening illness
- All patients must be currently receiving active treatment to qualify for consideration
- Annual income of less than \$60,000
- A brief narrative describing the patient's situation and the family's need must be included and written by the social worker or hospital personnel

Partners for Planning (P4P)

Website: partnersforplanning.ca

Description

- The **P4P Planning Network** helps to navigate information on Federal & Provincial supports (Disability Tax Credit, RDSP etc.)
- Provides guidance with legal & financial planning (i.e., Henson Fund, wills & estate planning), tax tips

Eligibility

- Anyone can access this website which contains resources, webinars, professional services directory, and a family forum focused on planning for the future, including financial planning

Children’s Wish Foundation/ Make A Wish Foundation:

Websites: childrenswish.ca/wishes/ / makeawish.ca/refer-child

Description

- 100% Canadian charity that grants the single most heartfelt wishes of Canadian children diagnosed with life threatening illnesses

Eligibility

- Any child residing in Canada between the ages of 3-17 who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness (illness must be verified by the child’s treating physician)
- Child has not received a prior wish from any wish granting organization
- The child’s treating physician and our Medical Advisor deem the child medically able to participate in the wish
- Referrals come from parents, family members, medical professionals, social work, child life specialist, friends, the potential wish child...

A Child’s Voice Foundation

Website: acvf.ca

Description

Kids Lifeline

- Provides a one-time fulfillment of a necessary product or service that will enhance a child’s quality of life
- Meets an immediate, essential, and sometimes critical need for a child
- May provide funds not covered by healthcare plans, government programs or other organizations
- Some examples: small medical equipment/supplies, required short term therapies, parking permits for hospital visits, specialized or needed furniture/equipment...

Eligibility

- Child with a disability or illness
- Funds not available through other sources

Description

Angel Hair for Kids

- Provides wigs or hair loss solutions for children experiencing hair loss

Eligibility

- Child experiencing hair loss due to cancer treatments, alopecia, other medical causes
- Application must be completed by a health or social care professional (doctor or social worker)

Million Dollar Smiles

Website: milliondollarsmiles.ca

Description

- A non-profit organization that provides support for families with children facing adversity from life threatening illness or disability
- This organizations builds backyard playgrounds and delivers 4-foot teddy bears to kids in the GTA and surrounding areas

Eligibility

- If you know of a child that is suffering from an illness or disability and believe the family would like support, or if you are a family member requesting support, please complete the email form on the website and the organization will send you eligibility requirements and a referral questionnaire

Starlight Children's Foundation Canada

Website: starlightcanada.org/about-us

Description

- **In-Hospital Program:** from activity kits and interactive gaming stations to toy filled playrooms, Starlight offers a comprehensive menu of in-hospital programs that bring fun, joy, and laughter where it is needed most
- **Out-of-Hospital Program:** whether it's a trip to the zoo or an action-packed sporting event, Starlight's families enjoy all the excitement from a getaway from the hospital

Eligibility

- Any child with a critical or chronic diagnosis from newborn to 18 years & their activities of daily living are severely affected
- Must be a Starlight's Family (fill out application)
- Have not been granted a wish from Starlight or another wish granting organization for the same illness

Note: Children between the ages of four to 18 years with a serious, chronic or life-threatening illness can be referred to Starlight Canada for a Once in A Lifetime Wish

Give a Miracle a Chance

Website: giveamiracleachance.com

Description

- Provides financial assistance to children with physical disabilities (i.e., CP) to access therapies & treatments
- Provides life management counseling, therapy programs & other support services to enable children to become more independent in their lives and in the community
- Offers two funding streams: financial assistance and life management therapy

Eligibility

- Diagnosis of a physical disability such as Cerebral Palsy (CP)

Sunshine Foundation: Dream for Kids

Website: sunshine.ca

Description

- National charitable organization that makes dreams come true for children living with severe physical disabilities or life-threatening illness
- Dreams may include trip to Disney, adapted fitness equipment, customized gaming systems, modified/adapted bikes....

Eligibility

- Child/youth with a severe physical disability

For the Needy Not the Greedy

Email: fortheneedynothegreedy@cogeco.net

Phone: 289-296-8079

Description

- For the Needy not the Greedy is a warehouse in Niagara Falls, Ontario that provides equipment and supplies for families and organizations in need
- Medical equipment for children is free-of-charge
- They offer a large variety of equipment including wheelchairs, beds, walkers, standers, toileting, bathing, feeding supplies, diapers etc. Items have been donated to the organization so stock varies
- Drop-in

Wild Hogs' Deeds4Kids

Email: <https://deeds4kids.square.site/>

Description:

- Wild Hogs' Deeds4Kids helps children with special needs and their families in circumstances where traditional social assistance or charitable programs cannot
- Past assistance has included: iPad for communication needs, weekend respite for parents, purchase of medical devices, food cards, mobility equipment, assisted breathing devices, utility areas....

Eligibility:

- Families of children with special needs and/or children with terminal illness
- Need to complete online questionnaire providing information such as; age of child, description of the child's special need/illness, family situation (financial, medical challenges...), type and cost of the assistance being requested

Richmond Hill Mobility Accessibility Foundation

Website: <https://www.rhmobility.ca/programs>

Description:

- The financial burden caused by Assistive Devices can create challenging financial times for many families. RH Mobility designates a portion of funds to help subsidize mobility equipment that is geared towards an active lifestyle.

Eligibility:

- Resident of Richmond Hill, Ontario
- Letter from doctor or Occupational Therapist stating need of assistive device

- 2 quotes from different vendors
- Copy of T4 slip or monthly statement of ODSP

Georgina Cares Fund

Website: <https://georginacares.ca/>

Description:

- The Georgina Care fund provides funding to children up to the age of 15, who live in the Town of Georgina, to take part in extra curriculum activities or for special needs when their parent/guardian cannot afford to do so
- Georgina Cares also helps local families with the Compassion Fund. If a family has experienced a significant, unforeseen or catastrophic occurrence (medical, accidental, death) funding may be available on a one-time basis to help assist with some of the financial stress during this time

Eligibility:

- Must be a resident of the Town of Georgina, Ontario
- Under the age of 15
- A copy of parents Notice of Assessment (CRA)

Camp and Recreation Information

Camp and Recreation Support Options

There are various support options that may be available with community recreation programs:

Adapted Programs

- Programs are often provided at a lower staff to participant ratio (for example, one staff for every three or four participants, instead of 1 staff for every eight to 10 participants)
- Programs and activities are often modified and adapted to meet the needs of your child with special needs and can be a great opportunity for your child with special needs to meet and interact with other children who may be working to overcome similar barriers

One-to-One Support

- Some programs offer one to one support through additional staffing. These support workers may come at an additional cost (typically an hourly wage) and are assigned to your child for the duration of the program
- A one-to-one support worker is encouraged if your child needs assistance with toileting/feeding/changing, has high behavioral needs or safety concerns. These workers are typically provided additional training around disabilities, personal care, and program adaptations so they can provide a fully inclusive opportunity for your child

Volunteer Support

- Some programs may also offer volunteers to provide additional support in a program
- Volunteers may be 15 or 16 years and older and are great option if your child is high functioning and requires an extra hand with redirection, staying on task, focusing etc.
- Volunteers typically will not provide support around toileting/feeding or high behavior concerns.

Your own Support Worker

- Most programs are happy to accommodate a support worker the family provides, whether it is a family member, family friend or respite worker, they should be allowed to attend the program at no charge, providing they follow volunteer policies and produce a criminal reference check

Questions to Consider/Ask when choosing a Recreation Program

Questions to ask yourself

- How close do I want the program to my home or work?
- How long do I want my child in the program for?
- Do I want my child to attend a full or half day camp?
- How many weeks do I want my child in this program?
- What kind of supports will my child need to be successful?
- What are the special needs that I need to inform the program staff of? (diet, allergies, medications, behavior, challenges, etc.)
- What are some strategies I can give the program to help support my child?

Questions to ask the Recreation/Program Coordinator

- What does a typical program session look like?
- What qualifications and training does your staff receive?
- What is the staff to child ratios?
- How does the program ensure the safety and security of its participants?
- What type of support does the program offer?
- What types of activities are planned and what skills do they require to participate?

- Is the site accessible? Are there any safety issues?
- What is the program philosophy? Are they open to inclusive programming?
- Does the program have a behavior management policy?
- Does the program have guidelines for private workers?
- Is the staff CPR/First Aid certified?
- Can my child and I meet the instructor/ view the program before it starts?
- How does the program handle participant information?
- Are there other families I can talk to about the program?
- If my child does not like the program what is your refund policy?

Community Programs – Municipal Supports

- All the local municipalities in York Region support children with exceptionalities in a variety of recreation and camp programs
- Additional support is available for children with exceptionalities when requested in any of the general recreation programs
- Some municipalities offer adapted and specialized programs specifically designed for individuals with exceptionalities
- Summer Day camps are available at various locations and will often provide trained 1-1 staff for your child when requested

For additional information about municipal recreation programs in your area, please refer to their respective Recreation Guides available online or at your local community center.

If your child requires additional support in a program or day camp, please contact the Recreation Programmer/Inclusion Support Services BEFORE registering for any program

Local municipalities:

Town of Aurora

- aurora.ca/en/recreation-arts-and-culture/inclusion-services.aspx

Town of East Gwillimbury

- eastgwillimbury.ca/en/living-in-eg/summer-camps.aspx#Inclusion-needs

Town of Georgina

- georgina.ca/getting-active/recreation/accessibility-inclusion

Township of King

- king.ca/Inclusion

City of Markham

- markham.ca/wps/portal/home/recreation/programs/inclusion-services/inclusion-services

Town of Newmarket

- newmarket.ca/ThingsToDo/Pages/Recreation%20and%20Culture/Inclusion.aspx

Town of Richmond Hill

- richmondhill.ca/en/things-to-do/Inclusion-Services.aspx

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

- townofws.ca/town-hall/accessibility/special-needs-adapted-recreation

City of Vaughan

- Inclusion Support - mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=18773&i=768593&p=98&ver=html5

